

Publication Name: THE GAZETTE

Publication Date: 04/05/2005 Headline: LETTERS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Common sense is missing from our justice system

Someone help me out here. In the past few weeks, we have had two little girls, one right here in Cedar Rapids, and their families suffer from the heinous acts of two convicted child molesters, who, not having served their full sentences, were released as "registered" sex offenders.

In other words, they were allowed to roam as free as any law-abiding citizen. John Couey (repeat offender) even told the judge that if he were released, he would do it again. I guess he forgot to mention he would brutally murder his next victim. Roger Paul Bentley was a "registered" sex offender. He lived in "small-town" Iowa. Funny, no one there knew of his status. He served only 23 months of a five-year sentence.

Explain "registered" sex offender to Jessica Lunsford or Jetseta Gage. We ought to give the judges who try these low-life criminals one of two choices: either let them live next door to them, or put them in shackles and leave them to rot in prison.

Now we have the Colorado Supreme Court overturning the death penalty on a murdering rapist because his jury referred to the Bible during deliberations. How dare that jury come to its own conclusion.

On the other hand, we have Martha Stewart. She lied to an FBI agent about stock trading. She got caught trying to save some of her own investments before they plummeted. She was sentenced to six months in prison, served all six productively and now is under house arrest wearing an ankle bracelet until August so authorities can keep tabs on her. Who did Martha kill? What is wrong with this picture?

If you think "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," just wait until God has his say, folks.

Annie Michalicek

Cedar Rapids

Wrong party blamed for child's death

As I read the sad news of a family burying a child, it sickens me to hear that some people believe the family could have stopped this.

The blame for this child's death should be laid firmly at the doorstep of law enforcement. That man was a registered sex offender, and when that call came in at 8:47 p.m., the Amber Alert should have been sounded then, not after three hours.

Those three hours gave that man the window of opportunity he needed to get far enough away so he could do whatever he wanted with the poor little girl.

Her brother knew who she left with, and running the man's name through the National Crime Information Center would have brought up his past. That should have been enough for authorities to sound the alert. Sure, the Amber Alert worked, but not the way it was intended. She should have been brought home alive.

I mourn for her parents. There is no greater loss than that of a child. God bless you,

Jetseta Gage, and peace be with your family.

Nikki Naylor

Cedar Rapids

Identify predators in a way everyone can see clearly It's happened again. A child has been abducted and murdered. What is it going to take before the population of this country stands up and lets the leaders of the government know that their program for sexual predators and pedophiles just doesn't work?

Time and time again, they are let loose into our cities and communities to do it all over again. We are told to "get online" to see where they live, have moved to and what

they look like. Tell the youngest of the children to do these things and see the blank stares on their faces. The reason the child abusers find it so easy to re-offend is that there isn't a policy in place to make the identification of these sleaze bags more noticeable to everyone who sees them.

The cure for this could be just this simple - put a permanent tattoo on the faces of those found guilty of child molestation. They would have a large letter "P" tattooed on their face. This letter would let all who see their perverted faces know that they have been found guilty of being a "pedophile/predator/pervert." Can't you just hear all the creeps yelling, "my rights, my rights!"

Well, I say there would be a lot less children taken away from their homes and families if all that the children had to do was see that big red "P" coming toward them.

All too often, these creeps are acquainted with the families and are hiding their past from the public's view, hoping that no one will actually go on the Internet and see what a "pedophile/pervert/predator" looks like and where they hang out. If, and that is a big if, they are ever "cured," the tattoo could be removed. I'll gladly pay for them on the Bentley brothers.

Jay Christensen

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